(c) whether sufficient stocks are available to meet the shortfall; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure full availability of foodgrains during the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Governments of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have reported damage to crops due to rains and hailstorms during February and March, 2007. As per available information, damage has been caused to wheat and other crops.

State-wise details of crop area affected, as reported by the States/as per available information, is indicated below:

State	Crop area affected
Haryana	5.78 lakh acres
Madhya Pradesh	1.74 lakh hectares
Punjab	2.15 lakh acres
Rajasthan	2.93 lakh hectares
Uttarakhand	1.54 lakh hectares
Uttar Pradesh	4.12 lakh hectares

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Bt. cotton

3199. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have been identified as holding special promise for hybrid Bt. cotton;

(b) if so, what are these and to what extent; and

(c) whether direction, if any, has been issued to different States to promote hybrid Bt. cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Bt. cotton hybrids have been released

for commercial cultivation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The area under Bt. cotton as reported by States during the last four years is given here under:

States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
A.P.	3762	5400	70400	330000
M.P.	1470	13200	85119	134639
Gujarat	9031	41200	124463	149317
Maharashtra	12280	21600	159600	488000
Karnataka	2160	3000	33906	27909
Tamil Nadu	370	7600	11856	17800
Punjab	-	-	-	72000
Haryana	-	-	-	12000
Rajasthan	-	-	-	2281
TOTAL:	29073	92000	492544	1233946

The area under Bt. cotton for 2006-07 was 34.40 lakh ha. provisionally.

No directions have been issued to States to promote Bt. cotton hybrids. However, awareness workshops have been organized in the States to educate stake holders, including farmers, about various aspects of Bt. cotton.

Post harvest technology

3200. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims and objectives of post harvest technology;

(b) how bringing the scheme of Post Harvest Technology under Technology Mission for Oil Seeds, Pulses and Maize has helped in stepping up the production of oil seeds, pulses and maize; and

(c) the details of indigenous technologies developed through R&D and the details of demonstration units set up?